

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 5-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Lindbom et al. for at least the reason that Lindbom et al. fails to disclose every claim element. For example, independent claim 5, from which claims 6 and 7 ultimately depend, recites a method of identifying distorted signals including, among other things, providing a tracking circuit which models the delay and widening characteristics of the digital system. In contrast, Lindbom et al. discloses an equalizer employed as a detector to track channel characteristics using a “decision directed mode” that estimates the channel parameters by using detected data symbols as inputs. However, nowhere in the discussion of channel tracking does Lindbom et al. even mention modeling the widening characteristics of a digital system. In fact, Lindbom et al. makes no mention of widening characteristics at all. Thus, Lindbom et al. fails to disclose, at least, providing a tracking circuit which models the delay and widening characteristics of the digital system and operating the tracking circuit in parallel with the digital system.

Because Lindbom et al. fails to disclose every element of independent claim 5, or claims 6 and 7 that depend therefrom, the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection with respect to these claims is improper and should be withdrawn.

Similarly, independent claim 8 recites an apparatus for identifying distorted signal output from a digital filter including, among other things, a means for modeling the delay of the digital filter and a means for modeling the widening characteristics of the digital filter. As noted above, Lindbom et al. fails to disclose, at least, a means for modeling the widening characteristics of any digital system.

Because Lindbom et al. fails to disclose every element of independent claim 8, the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection with respect to this claim is improper and should be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

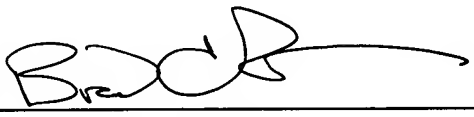
The Office Action contains a number of statements reflecting characterizations of the related art and the claims. Regardless of whether any such statement is identified herein, Applicants decline to automatically subscribe to any statement of characterization in the Office Action.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: January 10, 2006

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